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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/031,599	05/22/2002	Ludovic Petit	Q68159	6533
23373	7590	01/24/2005	EXAMINER	
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC 2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W. SUITE 800 WASHINGTON, DC 20037			WILLATT, STEPHANIE L	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3732	

DATE MAILED: 01/24/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/031,599

Applicant(s)

PETIT ET AL

Examiner

Stephanie L. Willatt

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 December 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 and 10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 and 10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-8 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brakarz et al. in view of Schneider, as evidenced by Dobbs et al.

Brakarz et al. discloses all of the features of the spray pump, including a pump (cylindrical-shaped body 3 and piston 7) and a dispensing head (pressing button 9) with a spray nozzle insert and a spray profile (atomizer insert 10), as discussed in column 3, lines 41-52 and shown in Figure 1. The pump (cylindrical-shaped body 3 and piston 7) has an initial dead stroke, actuating the pump starting only after the dispensing head has traveled over the dead stroke, as discussed in column 3, lines 14-40.

Brakarz et al. does not disclose a closure system including a closure element. Dobbs et al. disclose a spray device with similar spray components to Brakarz et al. Dobbs et al. disclose a sidewall portion (43) that scrapes a discharge orifice to clean it

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off between uses. Dobbs et al. evidences a need for pump sprayers to have a feature for scraping off the spray orifice.

In the embodiment of Figures 2-4, 6, and 7, Schneider discloses a pasty fluid dispenser device comprising a fluid reservoir (storage chamber) with a pump (compression chamber 38) mounted to it. A dispensing head (pushbutton member 1) is mounted to the pump (compression chamber 29) to move between a rest position and a dispensing position, and it has a dispensing orifice (116). The device comprises a closure system (tubular guide portion 110) fixed to the reservoir (storage chamber) and it comprises a closure element (masking element 113) suitable for closing off the dispensing orifice (116) from the outside when the dispensing head (pushbutton member 1) is in the rest position. The closure system (tubular guide portion 110) is implemented in the form of a hollow sleeve disposed around the dispensing head. The hollow sleeve has, on one side, the closure element (masking element 113) disposed above the opening, and on another side, a cutout through which the dispensing head (pushbutton member 1) projects so that it can be actuated by the user, as discussed in column 6, lines 44-65. While the dispensing head (pushbutton member 1) is returning from its dispensing position to its rest position after the dispensing member has been actuated, the closure element (masking element 113) slides snugly over the zone situated around the dispensing orifice (116), so as to remove any trace of fluid at the dispensing orifice (116), as discussed in column 5, lines 23-32. The closure system (tubular guide portion 110) is snap-fastened to the neck of the reservoir, as shown in Figures 6 and 7.

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It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the spray pump of Brakarz et al. with a closure system including a closure element, as taught by Schneider, in order to scrape off the dispensing orifice between uses, which a desirable function of spray devices, as evidenced by Dobbs et al.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant argues that claims 9 and 10 were not addressed in the previous Office Action. Although the limitations of claims 9 and 10 were included in the body of the rejection of the previous Office Action, Examiner is providing this final rejection properly listing claims 9 and 10.

Applicant argues that the date of Siegel et al. is not sufficient to overcome the present application. Although the rejection of claims 1-8 and 10 does not hinge on Siegel et al. (since Siegel et al. is used to merely evidence that there is motivation to combine Brakarz et al. with Schneider), Siegel et al. has been replaced by Dobbs et al. in the rejection.

Applicant argues that the dead stroke of the present invention is different from the dead stroke of Brakarz et al. However, the disclosure does not provide enough information about the dead stroke for one of ordinary skill in the art to gather that the dead stroke of the present invention is different from the dead stroke of Brakarz et al. The specification and the original claims merely state that there is an initial dead stroke and that the dispensing member starts only after the dispensing head has traveled over

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a dead stroke. The dispenser of Brakarz et al. also requires an initial dead stroke for the dispensing member to start, since the pump must be primed. Claims 1-8 and 10 remain rejected.

Conclusion

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephanie L. Willatt whose telephone number is (571) 272-4721. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:30-5:00).

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kevin P. Shaver can be reached on (571) 272-4720. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


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